

IMPEL TIGDA (Tackling Illegal Groundwater Drilling and abstraction)

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**Water & Land Expert Team
IMPEL Open Day - 29 January 2025**



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IMPEL TIGDA Phase 2 Completed



- Undertook 2 questionnaires with Member States
- Conducted four site meetings
 - Portugal – October 2022
 - Slovenia – October 2023
 - Spain – April 2024
 - Italy – October 2024
- Earth Observation project complete
- Phase 2 TIGDA report delivered
 - Stepped approach to compliance inspections
 - Site Inspection Checklist
 - All EO project reports

Using EO for compliance

Limited cost to screen

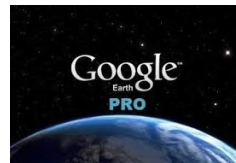
Cost for inspection



Awareness



First level screening



QGIS



Long list of potential activities

Second level screening



QGIS



Short list of potential illegal activities

Preparation for Compliance



Is there evidence the activity is still active

Compliance Inspection



IMPEL TIGDA – Phase 3 (2025 to 2027)

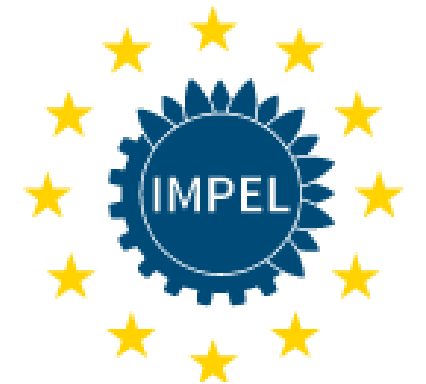


- Embed learning and innovation
- Site report from a joint TIGDA/GIEDA site meeting
- Site report from a site visit in 2025 outlining the complexities of detection to compliance surveillance – currently working with Malta.
- Promote a 4 Networks conference session on illegal groundwater activities.
- Work with IMPEL Knowledge and Information Programme (KIP) Team to:
 - develop a training and implementation plan for delivery and embedding detection and compliance.
 - deliver training events to three MS to support the implementation of the detection and compliance protocol and methodology.
- A report in 2027 summarising the learning and knowledge gained in TIGDA Phase 3

IMPEL TIGDA – Phase 3 (2025 to 2027)



- Discovery Phase with 4 Networks
 - How do Member States define “illegal” groundwater activities
 - Do Member States have regulation and compliance legislation covering groundwater
 - How can the TIGDA project support Environmental Crime Directive
 - What is the evidence needed for “substantial” damage



Contact information:

- ✓ **For joining this project:** If you work for an IMPEL member organisation and would like to join the project or receive further information, **please contact the National Coordinator of your country and the Project Manager at david.Seccombe@environment-agency.gov.uk**
- ✓ **For becoming a member of IMPEL:** If you are from an Environmental Authority or association of authorities that is based in a member state of the EU, a candidate country or another country applying Community law and would be interested in becoming a member of IMPEL, **please contact IMPEL Secretariat at info@impel.eu** for more information.
- ✓ **For all other interested parties:** please check out our new website for further information! www.impel.eu



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